

Workforce Investment Act (WIA) One-Stop Workforce System Summary for Job Seekers

The Federal Workforce Investment Act was signed into law in August 1998, and went into effect in Georgia in July 2000. The Governor designated the Governor's Office of Workforce Development, under the leadership of Executive Director Tricia Pridemore, as the state agency responsible for the administration of WIA. The Governor also appointed the State Workforce Investment Board to aid in planning and developing Georgia's overall workforce system.

The state of Georgia is divided into 20 local service delivery areas. Within each local area, a Local Workforce Investment Board exists which is appointed by local elected officials. The Local Board is comprised of local business leaders and community representatives. Local Boards are responsible for the creation and maintenance of their local workforce system. They work to insure that the system is employer-led, demand-driven, customer-friendly, and continuously improving. While no two local systems look exactly alike, the state strives to maintain a streamlined system that is recognizable throughout the state.

The defining characteristic of WIA is the One-Stop Workforce Center. These centers provide job seekers and employers a wide range of services. Georgia has over 45 comprehensive One-Stop Centers, at least one per local area. In addition to the comprehensive One-Stop Centers, most local areas contain non-comprehensive sites that can provide some of the services offered by WIA. Non-comprehensive sites may include technical colleges, welfare offices and community based organizations.

The services provided by WIA are subject to participant eligibility and are separated into three categories. These are Core services, Intensive services, and Training services. While every One-Stop Center, both comprehensive and non-comprehensive, will be able to provide Core services, not all non-comprehensive One-Stop Centers are able to provide access to Intensive and Training services. Core services usually include, among other services, new customer orientation to job seeker services, information on training/education offerings, financial aid application assistance, labor market information, and tips for regaining employment after a layoff.

Intensive services are provided to individuals if the participant is deemed eligible, and is determined to require more than core services, intensive services will be provided. Some of the Intensive services provided include individual career planning, short-term prevocational services, and comprehensive assessments.

Training Services are also provided to participants deemed eligible to receive them. If a participant is eligible for Training services, an Individual Training Account will be created that will be used to fund their training or re-education

To find the One-Stop Workforce Center near you visit: <http://wfi.cybernetixs.com/>